

CHRISTOPHER'S MINOR SURGERY—Eighth Edition—Edited by Alton Ochsner, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Clinical Surgery, Tulane University School of Medicine; and Michael E. DeBakey, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Surgery and Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Baylor University College of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1959. 539 pages, \$10.50.

This is the 8th edition of Christopher's Minor Surgery. This has for years been the authoritative book in the field of minor surgery and it has been adequately re-edited and kept up-to-date by Doctors Ochsner and DeBakey. The book is a good one on minor surgery and could be recommended to physicians wishing a ready answer to minor surgical problems.

The original nature of the work was extremely comprehensive with extensive quotations from numerous authors on each subject. The present editors, however, have chosen to give one simple clear answer to each problem, and the book's value is definitely enhanced by this simplification and shortening.

The difficulty with a book of this type is that many of the minor surgical problems have passed, in the intervening years, over into major surgical problems. The present scope of the subject matter is therefore limited and the simple answers of yesteryear no longer satisfy today's approach. This is particularly true in the field of peripheral vascular disease, fractures, extremity injuries, soft tissue tumors, and problems in the field of sepsis and burns. The scope of the book, therefore, is quite limited in respect to previous years. This detracts from the general value of a book of this type, but for the subjects that are covered, it is still an excellent work. Much of the material is better treated in standard books on fractures, general surgery, or good brief books in the various specialties. The book, therefore, is not as desirable or as practical to the practicing physician as it was a number of years ago when these fields of knowledge were simpler and less difficult from the standpoint of therapy. In its field, this is a good book and can be recommended to the general physician.

VICTOR RICHARDS, M.D.

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BETWEEN YEARS, THE—Dedicated to Adolescents and Their Parents—Mark Lewis Gerstle, M.D., Chief Psychiatrist, California Youth Authority. Published by the State Department of the Youth Authority, 401 State Office Building No. 1, Sacramento 14. (Intended for placement in PTA establishments, schools and churches.)

In this diminutive booklet, a seasoned psychiatrist presents for popular consumption the distillate of his years of clinical experience with adolescents and their parents. Dr. Gerstle is Chief Psychiatrist of the California Youth Authority, which is the State Agency entrusted with the care and treatment of delinquent youth.

"The Between Years" is intended for distribution to parent-teacher establishments, schools, churches, and other groups of interested adults. It describes, in simple and graphic terms, the cardinal conflicts of the adolescent period, and, with wisdom and restraint, offers some broad guidelines for parental behavior. Particularly refreshing is an absence of mealy-mouthed pleas for unconditional acceptance and permissiveness. The understanding which Dr. Gerstle advocates throughout his presentation is always tempered with reminders of parental obligations to impose appropriate controls.

Dr. Gerstle's reasoning is psychodynamically sound, his observations clinically accurate, and his interpretations and advice clearly and understandably stated. The booklet is recommended to all physicians who have occasion to counsel parents of teenagers.

H. R. BRICKMAN, M.D.

CARE OF THE PATIENT WITH A STROKE—A Handbook for the Patient's Family and the Nurse. By Genevieve Waples Smith, R.N., M.A. Springer Publishing Company, Inc., 44 East 23rd St., New York 10, N. Y., 1959. 148 pages, \$2.75.

This paper bound book consists of 12 chapters and 142 pages. It is written by a registered nurse whose husband was the patient and there is a foreword by Dr. Arthur C. Jones, M.D., Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation of the University of Oregon Medical School.

The material is presented for the lay reader who it is presumed is a relative or close friend of a patient with a stroke.

The material is well presented and accurate and should be of special value to lay people who are going to be responsible for the home care of a patient with a stroke.

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DOCTORS AND PATIENTS—Stories by Leading American Physicians—Edited by Noah D. Fabricant, M.D. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, New York, 1959. 204 pages, \$5.25.

One must say at the start that the material between these covers is rather slight and at best would do for bedtime reading before putting out the light. Every doctor has had numerous "memorable medical experiences and incidents" of this sort (foreword), which are usually freely shared at the luncheon table or over the beer and cheese. We wonder if this collection justifies its publication in book form; at any rate it makes pretty light reading.

ARTHUR L. BLOOMFIELD, M.D.

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ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY FOR STAPHYLOCOCCAL DISEASES—Antibiotics Monographs No. 12. Edited by Henry Welch, Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief of Antibiotics & Chemotherapy and Antibiotic Medicine & Clinical Therapy, Washington, D. C.; and Maxwell Finland, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Associate Director, Thorndike Memorial Laboratory; and Physician-in-Chief, Fourth Medical Service, Boston City Hospital, Boston, Mass. Foreword by Felix Marti-Ibanez, M.D. Medical Encyclopedia, Inc., 30 East 60th Street, New York 22, N. Y., 1959. 208 pages, \$4.50.

During the past decade increasing concern has been expressed over the problems of epidemic infections by drug-resistant staphylococci. This volume is a compilation of information about the drug treatment of staphylococcal infections. Individual contributors deal with "newer drugs" such as novobiocin, vancomycin, ristocetin and others. Several of these chapters are well considered and complete summaries, others appear to be less well conceived and balanced. One wonders what influenced the editors to let a concise and meaningful chapter on erythromycin (nine pages) be followed by a longwinded (57 pages!) review on oleandomycin "its derivatives and combinations." In about one tenth of that space it might have been stated that oleandomycin may be considered "a poor relative of erythromycin," that triacetyl-oleandomycin is the only available derivative comparable to erythromycin propionate, and that claims for fixed oleandomycin-tetracycline combinations have been condemned as false by many responsible and critical investigators.

The descriptions of individual drugs present the views held by the authors in the fall of 1958. Additional evidence and experience has accumulated since then and can be found in current medical literature. The most useful part of the volume for the practicing physician who seeks guidance for the management of staphylococcal infection is the "Recapitulation and Discussion" by Dr. M. Finland. His 13 pages deserve to be read by everyone.

E. JAWETZ